

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY IO/CMD:WWOODBURY/AD

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UNGA, EGEN
SUBJECT: US PREPARATIONS FOR THE 7TH SPECIAL SESSION

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY IO (BUFFUM) MET WITH MINISTER SYKES OF UK EMBASSY 27 FEBRUARY TO OUTLINE US APPROACH TO 7TH SPECIAL SESSION AND TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITIES FOR CLOSE COORDINATION WITH LIKE-MINDED NATIONS. HE SAID THAT THE DEPARTMENT WAS BEGINNING TO CRANK UP PREPARATIONS FOR THE SEPTEMBER MEETING AND HE WOULD APPRECIATE ADVICE ON HOW BEST TO ORGANIZE TO COPE WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF DC/LDC CONFRONTATION IN THE UNGA. WHILE THE OECD MEETING IN COMING WEEK WOULD INVOLVE COORDINATION OF VIEWS, WE ALSO WISHED TO PURSUE SUBJECT BILATERALLY. WE WERE CONSIDERING HOW BEST TO CONSULT WITH THE LDC'S LATER IN THE PROCESS.

2. SYKES SAID THAT WHILE HE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS HE WELCOMED OUR APPROACH. HE INDICATED THE PRESIDENT AND PRIMIN WILSON HAD DISCUSSED THIS VERY QUESTION WHICH WAS

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REFLECTED IN THE PRIMIN'S SPEECH IN LEEDS. THE US

INTEREST IN COOPERATION RATHER THAN CONFRONTATION IN THE UN WAS FULLY SHARED BY HMG. USEFUL POINTERS AS TO THE DIRECTION THE LDC'S WERE GOING MIGHT BE GAINED AT THE COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE IN JAMAICA 29 APRIL BECAUSE ITS LDC MEMBERS WERE LESS EXTREME. SYKES BELIEVED THAT

SINCE BOTH DC'S AND LDC'S WERE AFFECTED BY VIOLENT FLUCTUATIONS IN COMMODITY PRICES THERE WAS A COMMUNITY OF INTEREST ALTHOUGH NOT NECESSARILY IN COMMODITY AGREEMENTS. HE WAS CONVINCED COMMODITY PROBLEMS WOULD DOMINATE THE 7TH SPECIAL SESSION ALTHOUGH THE UK HAD NOT YET COMMENCED DETAILED WORK ON THE QUESTION. SYKES POINTED OUT THAT THE UK HAD TO CONSIDER UN PROBLEMS IN THE EC CONTEXT. HE BELIEVED THAT BRITISH ENTRY HAD HELPED BROADEN THE OUTLOOK OF THE EC IN RELATION TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND MADE EUROPE MORE CONSCIOUS OF ITS RESPONSIBILITIES. HE WANTED TO STAY CLOSELY IN TOUCH WITH THE US BUT US SHOULD ALSO CONSIDER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE EC, FOR IT WOULD BE VALUABLE FOR THE TWO TO HAVE A COMMON VIEW IN THE UN. HE BELIEVED THAT THERE WERE RECENT SIGNS OF A DEEPENING DIVERGENCE IN THE THIRD WORLD BETWEEN THE MODERATES AND EXTREMISTS AND THAT IF THE WEO'S COULD COME FORWARD WITH A SENSIBLE AND RELATIVELY GENEROUS APPROACH, IT WOULD ENCOURAGE THE SENSIBLE LDC'S AND HELP ISOLATE THE WILD MEN.

3. BUFFUM REPLIED THAT THIS WAS THE HEART OF THE PROBLEM BUT ALGIERS AND DAKAR HAD NOT BEEN ENCOURAGING ABOUT A POSSIBLE DIVISION AMONG THE LDC'S. WE WERE, HOWEVER, TAKING A FRESH LOOK AT THE PROBLEMS OUTSTANDING BETWEEN US AND THE LDC'S. HE SAID THAT THE 7TH SPECIAL SESSION WAS AN ACID TEST AS FAR AS THE US WAS CONCERNED AND IT WILL DETERMINE TO WHAT EXTENT WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO BUSINESS IN THE UN OR RESORT TO OTHER FORUMS. HE BELIEVED THAT THE LDC'S SHOULD BE INFORMED EARLY ON THAT IT WAS THEIR CHOICE, EITHER RHETORIC OR RESULTS. NOTHING WAS FROZEN IN THE US POSITION, HOWEVER, AND WE REMAINED OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS BOTH AS TO SUBSTANCE AND TO PROCEDURE.

4. SYKES SAID THAT HE WOULD REPORT FULLY THIS CONVERSATION
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TO LONDON AND RELAY ANY REACTIONS HE RECEIVED.

5. COMMENT: DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE PROMPT REPORTING OF ANY UK VIEWS ON THE 7TH SPECIAL SESSION ISSUES AND ANY BRITISH REACTIONS THAT MAY COME TO YOUR ATTENTION.

KISSINGER

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